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University Marketing and Communications, "07/07/1993 - EIU President Approves Textbook Rental Recommendations.pdf" (1993). 1993. 597.

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93-199

July 7, 1993

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU PRESIDENT APPROVES TEXTBOOK RENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University graduate students will have the option of renting or buying their textbooks in the Fall of 1993 and faculty members will have greater say in what textbooks they use in the coming years.

These recommendations were among five proposals adopted by Eastern's Textbook Rental Review Committee and endorsed by the Faculty and Student senates and Eastern President David Jorns.

They are premised on the continued existence of Eastern's Textbook Rental Service which charges students \$59 per semester to rent basic textbooks for all courses.

"Given that entering graduate students have made a professional commitment and that many graduate students place a high priority on building a library related to their professional interests, the Textbook Rental Review Committee recommended that graduate students be given the option of purchasing their texts at the beginning of each term, with the Textbook Rental Service fee waived," said Dan Klingenberg, director of Eastern's Textbook Rental Service.

Beginning next fall, graduate students will be permitted to

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purchase their textbooks between the first class day and the twentieth class day of the semester. Students who purchase their textbooks during this period of time will be given a refund of their textbook rental fee. Those purchasing books after the twentieth day will not receive a refund.

Klingenberg does not anticipate any additional cost because of the new graduate student policy for textbook rental.

Graduate students who do not wish to purchase textbooks may rent them through the Textbook Rental Service. Undergraduate students will still be required to rent their textbooks at the beginning of each term, but will be able to purchase their books at a depreciated rate later in the semester.

To make the option of purchasing textbooks more attractive, the Textbook Rental Review Committee recommended depreciating the cost of each textbook according to the number of semesters that the book has been used.

In the fall, students will be able to purchase reduced cost books between the twentieth day of class and sixtieth day of class. Each time a book is used, it will be depreciated 10 percent of the retail cost, up to a maximum of 50 percent of the value of the book. The book will never go below 50 percent of the retail cost no matter how many times it is used.

"Due to the fact that textbooks in our system, because of our large ordering procedures, are not depreciated in the strict sense, we are not able to take full depreciation. However, the

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TEXTBOOK RENTAL

process as outlined above should facilitate the desire to purchase the books at a depreciated rate," Jorns said.

In order to promote high quality instruction in each section of courses with multiple sections, the Textbook Rental Review Committee further recommended that the university adopt a formal policy that permits individual instructors to select texts that in their professional judgement meet their teaching objectives and students' needs. However, it will be up to the college deans to notify Textbook Rental whether or not different books for courses with multiple sections are acceptable.

In the past, the same books, as recommended by college departmental committees, have been used for multiple course sections.

The new multiple sections policy will not be implemented before the Fall of 1994 because of the necessity of significant alterations in Computer Services support, according to Jorns.

Faculty members will also have more money to spend on textbooks following a recommendation by Jorns to up the textbook selection limit from \$50 to \$60 per semester, beginning next fall. Since the \$60 cost limit will not be sufficient for some classes, the university does have a policy which allows faculty to exceed the cost limit by discussing their request with the Textbook Rental Service.

Another recommendation by the Textbook Rental Committee involves expanding the focus of the current University Bookstore

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or establishing a separate facility that deals exclusively with the sale of books.

In response to that recommendation, Jorns said, "Though I certainly support the desire of the university community to have a full-service bookstore, we are under severe constraints from the state of Illinois and are not allowed to compete with private vendors.

"We do not have the wherewithal, of course, to build a separate bookstore and would have to expand the inventory within the University Bookstore. However, to do this would be to put us in possible competition with local vendors and certainly cause concern within our surrounding commercial environment."

Jorns has asked the bookstore staff to examine the feasibility of this proposal, on both a legal and inventory accrual basis, to see what further action can be taken.